

Minutes

Meeting: Council on Coastal Futures

Place: Residence Inn
Hilton Head, SC

Date: November 7, 2003

Present: William W. Jones, Jr., Chairman
Jesse C. Dove, Vice-Chairman
William D. Baughman
Dana Beach
Paul G. Campbell, Jr.
James S. Chandler, Jr.
James Frazier
Fred Holland
Hank Johnston
Sen. John Kuhn
Rep. Dwight Loftis
John Miglarese
John Settle
Mike Wooten

OCRM Staff: Chris Brooks
Debra Hernandez

Facilitator: David McNair

Absent: Barbara Catenaci
Barrett Lawrimore
Tom Leath
Jack W. Shuler
Ellison D. Smith, IV

Welcome

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked the Secretary to call the roll. There were 14 members present, thus establishing a quorum.

Chairman Jones stated that the news media and concerned citizens were notified, as required by the State Freedom of Information Act, of the following scheduled meeting:

Council on Coastal Futures
9:30 a.m., November 7, 2003
Residence Inn
Hilton Head, South Carolina

Chairman Jones stated that the Council has, therefore, complied with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Public Forum

The public was invited to address the Council. Joni Diamond from Hilton Head was the first speaker. She is a local author and has written a book entitled *I'm in a Hateful State Territory*. She stated that all the sea islands off the coast of South Carolina belong to the federal government and that they do not now nor have they ever belonged to the State. She believes that everything done on the islands is illegal and that the 1977 formation of the Coastal Council was an attempt to help the state “gobble up” the sea islands. She referred the Council members to her book for further details on the history of the islands along with her efforts to expose the situation.

Mr. Joe Wolfe was the next speaker. He addressed the Council on the subject of an appeal before the Administrative Law Judge Division concerning a dock in the Ashley River at the Wagener Terrace subdivision on the Charleston peninsula. He believes the current community dock is trying to be converted to a marina by adding jet docks. He is concerned about the ambiguity in R.30-12 and wants to see it changed to eliminate the loop-hole in the regulations.

The Honorable Tom Peeples, Mayor of Hilton Head Island, was the next speaker. He spoke regarding the need for renourishment of the beach at Hunting Island State Park, the need for public beach access and a permanent funding source to be used for beach renourishment. He asked that the Port Royal ocean dredge site remain open in order to have a place to send spoil from dredging operations and he expressed his concern should that site be closed. He stated his personal view on marinas that were developed prior to the current regulations and now need dredging and the lack of available upland disposal sites. He asked that the state conduct a comprehensive study of those areas that were permitted and developed prior to the current standards and what can be done to solve the problem of spoil disposal. He asked that the Council recommend that communities with a large tourism base be allowed to use a portion of accommodation tax money for costs associated with dredging operations in their communities.

A discussion followed Mayor Peeples' remarks and Mayor Johnston asked that Representative Loftis and Senator Kuhn recognize that tourism is a very important part of South Carolina's economy and that approximately 12.5% of the state's tourism revenue comes from the Hilton Head/Beaufort County area and should be taken into consideration for justification to keep the offshore disposal site open. Mr. Brooks stated that current regulations require new marinas to have an identified, deed-restricted, diked/managed upland disposal site. The discussion continued on dredging in the off-season, use of new technologies such as geotextile tubes, and the link between the tourism industry and the need for dredging and beach renourishment. Mr. Brooks suggested that the Council could consider the subject further at the December meeting as it is listed in the Council's Resource Management Issues Considerations.

Administrative

Chairman Jones stated that the vote on the decision of the Council to ask the SCDHEC Board for an amendment to the Council's mission statement had been incorrectly recorded. The record should be corrected to reflect Rep. Loftis' vote of no. As a follow up to that action, Chairman Jones stated that the letter he had written to the SCDHEC Board asking to have the matter put on the agenda was objected to by a member of the Board. He is working with the Board member to address his concerns, and expects the matter to be on a future agenda.

David McNair stated that there would be a change to the day's agenda. The 1:00 p.m. stormwater presentation would be changed to a presentation on wetlands by Richard Chinnis.

The minutes of the October 3, 2003, meeting were considered for adoption by the Council. Mr. Dove made a correction to his motion in the section entitled Council Discussion of Wetland Management Considerations. He asked that the minutes be corrected by deleting the words *aesthetics and education* and inserting the words *incentives and mitigation*. Rep. Loftis asked that the minutes reflect that he abstained on the vote. With these changes, the minutes were adopted unanimously.

Envisioning our Coastal Future

Facilitator David McNair addressed the Council on "Envisioning Our Coastal Future," a look at the Council's vision for the next 25 years of coastal zone management in South Carolina. Mr. McNair stated that the Council has received input into its process in four different ways - the public input from the surveys, the staff's opinions, and looking at what other states have done with Envision Utah and North Carolina's programs. He began by reviewing the staff's input and their vision for the future. (See Attachment A) He summarized the staff's main concerns and vision for the future with a combination of emphasis on planning, education and partnering. Next, he summarized the public interviews and the main concerns expressed by the public. He distributed copies of Utah and North Carolina's vision statements. (See Attachment B) He stated that a committee would be formed to review the input and develop a vision statement to present at the next meeting. A general discussion followed among the members of the Council regarding how to achieve this vision and the problems associated with implementing the vision. The consensus of the group was that Mr. Dove's committee would take the input from Council members, the public, staff and the other two example programs, and would formulate a draft vision to bring back to the Council next month. Dana Beach and Paul Campbell volunteered to serve on the committee with Mr. Dove.

Implementation Strategies

Chris Brooks made the next presentation on implementation strategies. He explained how Utah and North Carolina implemented their future vision. (See Attachment C) He stated that the support of the states' governors was critical to both programs along with the support of the local governments. He stated that adequate funding and staff, public participation and education, clear goals and objectives, along with specific designation of responsibility were all crucial to the success of the programs. Mr. Beach noted that Utah's program was driven by the business community and pushed as a quality of life issue. Dr. Holland relayed his recent experience of reviewing the Tampa Bay project and the success it has achieved over the last 25 years. Chairman Jones noted that the common denominator in all scenarios was support in the upper levels of government beginning with the Governor.

Facilitator David McNair asked the group to consider what their role would be in implementation of their vision or if not them, who should oversee the implementation. Chairman Jones stated his belief that there is a dire need for an entity that does coastal planning with a combined educational component. He also wants to see a revised appeals process. Mr. Baughman expressed his concern that the Council's vision should be determined before

strategies for implementation are considered. Mr. Dove asked that comments be submitted to his committee to help in formulating the vision.

John Walsh, Deputy State Highway Engineer, SCDOT

Mr. John Walsh with the South Carolina Department of Transportation was the next speaker to address the Council. He provided an overview of the State's highway system and future plans to integrate a mass transit system into the state's transportation infrastructure. (See Attachment C) He stated that DOT's vision for the state is to carry out its mandate in conjunction with the local community's needs and supports community planning efforts and emphasized the impact they can have on the infrastructure. He wants to see a focus on intermodal transportation in the future along with the development of a mass transit plan. A discussion followed touching on the amount of money spent on new roads as opposed to the amount spent on maintenance and repair of existing roads, mass transit needs, interchange design and the gasoline tax. The need for agency cooperation early in the planning process was discussed with Senator Kuhn making a motion that the Council ask SCDOT to bring projects to OCRM in their initial planning and design stages. Chairman Jones asked that the motion be delayed until the Considerations were discussed later on the agenda. Senator Kuhn agreed to delay the discussion and his motion until that time.

Jim Mozley, Palmetto Bluff, LLC

Jim Mozley, Senior Vice President, along with Patty Richards from Crescent Resources, the developer of Palmetto Bluff gave a presentation to the Council. Palmetto Bluff is a piece of land about the size of Hilton Head. The land was recently annexed into the Town of Bluffton. He discussed the development of Palmetto Bluff and the efforts to preserve as much of the original character of the land as possible. The development of the land avoided wetlands, preserved trees, used low density lot design with conservation easements, and as little impervious ground cover as possible. The Jack Nicklaus golf course was designed to preserve as many trees as possible with low-density lots and a modest sized clubhouse. Mayor Johnston noted that the project had exceeded his expectations for an environmentally sensitive development.

Submerged Land Leasing

Richard Chinnis addressed the Council regarding the issue of submerged land leasing. He distributed a page of information on the subject (See Attachment D) and asked that the members of the Council consider the information for a future meeting and let the staff know if this was a matter that they wanted to further consider and if any there were any specific questions that needed to be researched before the next meeting. Dr. Miglarese suggested that someone from DNR be invited to speak to the Council on the subject.

Meeting Wrap-up and Next Steps

Following the announcement of next month's meeting location at the NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

December 5, 2003

Janet M. Kruger